

New Programs Being Developed

A number of important programs are being introduced here at the Home to make life more meaningful not only for current members, but also for new members who will be making King their home. To describe and explain each of these programs in full detail would encompass many pages, so only a brief explanation of each is given in this article.

More detailed information regarding these programs can be obtained by contacting: Amber Nikolai (Member and Public Relations Director ext. 4247).

Code Red, White and Blue/Code Amazing Grace:

This program was introduced on July 4th of this year. The mission of this program is one of a cooperative effort among members, staff, family members, and volunteers to honor fallen veterans and dependents who lived at the Home.

When a veteran living at King passes away, a "Code Red White and Blue" announcement will be made, indicating a veteran has passed away. The veteran will be draped with an American flag and provided an escort.

When a dependent of a veteran passes away, "Code Amazing Grace" will be announced. He or she will be draped with a dignity blanket and will also be given an escort.

This is our way of honoring a veteran's service and recognizing their loved ones. For additional details on this program, contact your Social Worker or Activity Therapist.

Extensive Campus Makeover

Plans are already in motion to project more patriotism and pride within the buildings and on the grounds of the King Veterans Home. This project will be implemented in four phases:

Phase One: More prominent signage on Highway QQ directing traffic to the Wisconsin Veterans Home. Within the complex new definitive signage will be placed assisting visitors in finding buildings and indicating the location of specific services and facilities.

Phase Two: Incorporating patriotic visuals such as branch of service emblems and flags, historic markers informing visitors about the history of the Home. Updating main entrance, new banners along Highway QQ and adding banners on campus light poles. A permanent display of military vehicles is also in the plans.

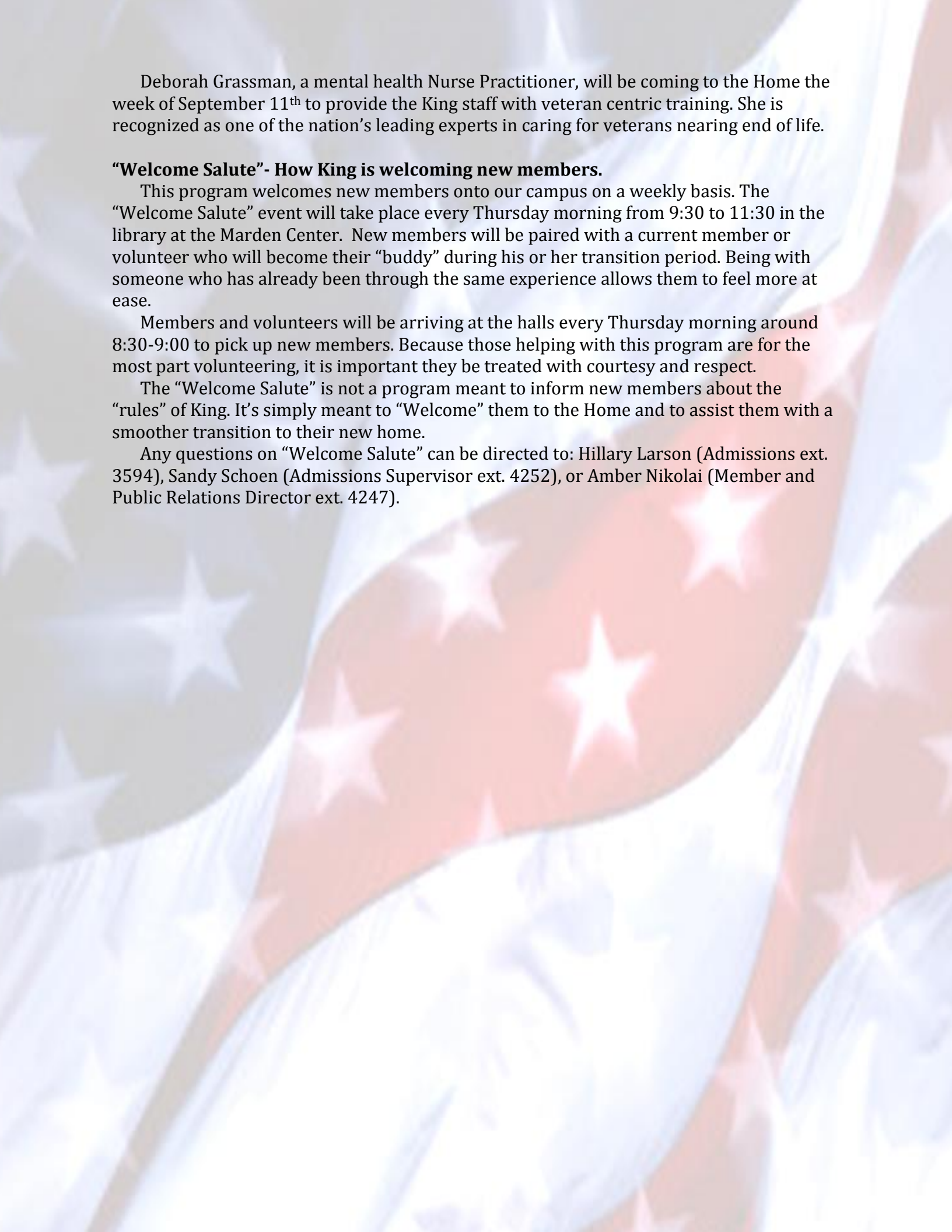
Phase Three: Quadrangle Park is tentatively slated to be renamed Veterans Memorial Park. Currently, the park has a Medal of Honor monument and a World War I monument. Additional memorials to honor every major war from the Civil War to date are being planned.

Phase Four: Segments of the underground tunnel system will be dedicated to each branch of service and historical timelines given from inception to present.

Staff Training/New Employee Orientation

The program "Go in Peace" was inaugurated here at the Home on July 13th, and is now part of New Employee Orientation and mandatory for all staff.

"Go in Peace" teaches staff, caregivers and families how to recognize, and understand what a veteran is coping with mentally in regard to his or her military experiences. This is a process which includes understanding the symptoms of PTSD; creating a safe physical and emotional well-being; preparing oneself to ask difficult questions, which answers might harbor an emotional strain for the veteran; and listening to and validating, without judgment, what the veteran has to share.



Deborah Grassman, a mental health Nurse Practitioner, will be coming to the Home the week of September 11th to provide the King staff with veteran centric training. She is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts in caring for veterans nearing end of life.

“Welcome Salute”- How King is welcoming new members.

This program welcomes new members onto our campus on a weekly basis. The “Welcome Salute” event will take place every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 in the library at the Marden Center. New members will be paired with a current member or volunteer who will become their “buddy” during his or her transition period. Being with someone who has already been through the same experience allows them to feel more at ease.

Members and volunteers will be arriving at the halls every Thursday morning around 8:30-9:00 to pick up new members. Because those helping with this program are for the most part volunteering, it is important they be treated with courtesy and respect.

The “Welcome Salute” is not a program meant to inform new members about the “rules” of King. It’s simply meant to “Welcome” them to the Home and to assist them with a smoother transition to their new home.

Any questions on “Welcome Salute” can be directed to: Hillary Larson (Admissions ext. 3594), Sandy Schoen (Admissions Supervisor ext. 4252), or Amber Nikolai (Member and Public Relations Director ext. 4247).